

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2146
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2007
MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched Merit Scholarship Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of wards of widows and Ex-Servicemen benefited under the scheme;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the scheme further; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

- (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme has been launched by the Government for wards of Ex-servicemen and their widows. The scheme was introduced from the academic year 2006-2007.
- (b) The details of the scheme are in the Annexure attached. A total number of 3796 wards of Ex-servicemen and widows have benefited under the scheme during the academic year 2006-2007.
- (c) & (d): There is no such proposal at present.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY GIVEN IN PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2146 FOR ANSWER ON 27.8.2007

Prime Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme:

1. Persons eligible for the scholarship:

- (a) Wards of ex-servicemen and their widows (below officer rank).
- (b) Wards of widows of ex-servicemen died in harness due to causes attributed to military service.
- (c) Widows of ex-servicemen died in harness.
- (d) The scheme is open only for widows and unmarried wards of ESM/widows. However, marriage/re-marriage at a subsequent date would not disqualify the awardee.

2. Order of preference:

If the number of applications for scholarship exceeds the approved number of scholarships, the order of preference for allotment of scholarships will be as under: -

Category (i) Wards/widows of defence personnel killed in action.

Category (ii) Wards of ex-servicemen disabled in action and boarded out of service with disability attributable to military service.

Category (iii) Wards/widows of defence personnel who died while in service for causes attributable to military service.

Category (iv) Wards/widows of Defence personnel disabled in service with disability attributable to military service.

Category (v) Wards of ex-servicemen in receipt of gallantry awards.

Category (vi) Wards of ex-servicemen (PBOR).

3. Courses eligible for the Scholarship:

First professional degree programme in engineering, medicine, dental, veterinary, MBA, MCA etc. duly recognised by the respective government regulatory bodies, such as All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India etc.

The scheme is open for courses mentioned above in recognised institutions irrespective of its location in the country vis-à-vis the residence/domicile of the wards of the ESM/widows.

4. Academic requirement:

At least 60% marks at the 10+2 level for the initial sanction. For renewal in subsequent years, 50% marks each year.

5. Duration of the Scholarship:

Two to five years as approved by the concerned regulatory body for that programme.

6. Amount of Scholarship:

The amount of scholarship would be as follows:

(i) Rs. 1250/- per month for boys.

(ii) Rs. 1500/- per month for girls.

The payment of scholarship will be granted after the successful completion of each academic year, as per the percentages mentioned in the academic requirement.

7. Renewal of Scholarship:

Once the scholarship is awarded, the candidate is required to apply for renewal of scholarship for the subsequent year in the prescribed proforma, alongwith a certificate from the College/Institute indicating that the candidate continues to study in the subject course and Statement of Marks indicating the percentage.